

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022



1812 North Highland Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33755
Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

727-446-5026
office@graceclw.com
Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death. The lessons appointed for today: Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25.

Some practical things for you to know:

Children: All children, even those who are noisy, upset, or otherwise discombobulated, are always welcome here!

Restrooms are located to the left out of the doors you entered in to the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.

Holy Communion: All baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Table. Our ushers will guide you.

The Bulletin The congregation's responses are those in **bold print** or in ALL CAPS.

THE ORDER OF OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Scenes of Advent

by Wendy Roth

WELCOME

We stand.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved. O house of David, come,

Congregation: let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING CAROL *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* ELW 240 vs. 4

4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He is coming, tell the glad tidings.

Let your lights be shining!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We Sit

Christmas Reflections

Narration written by Richard Duncan
Accompanists: Wendy Roth and Melanie Wyatt
Director: Wendy Roth

Choir members: Anne Bittner, Cliff Bittner, Pastor Jefferson Cox, Jenny Cox, Phyllis Dumdie, Ellen DuPaul, Rena Hall, Gloria Holtzclaw, Carol Maulsby, Linda Ossman, Nancy Small, Carol Smitley, Danny Valentin, Syrena Valentin, Chris Willman, & Dale Willman

Narration

“Wondering” (Jenny Cox, soloist) by Jane Marshall

Come, sweet season of the Wonder, Come, inflame our hearts again;
Holy Vision, go before us to earth’s communion, God’s Amen.

Narration

“Come Rejoice, Believers” by Buxtehude/arr. Hopson

Come rejoice, rejoice, believers.
The watchman high now loudly sings the joyful tidings.
The Bridegroom comes, the feast awaits;
Believers rise; Make joy to Him.
Let your lights in beauty shine, The Bridegroom comes.
Arise! He comes, the Lord is He, Emanuel.
Rejoice, rejoice, the Savior comes.

Narration

“Long Time Ago” (Waly, Waly) setting by Joseph Martin

A silent night, a baby’s cry, a mother sings a lullaby.
A star is watching from the sky, long time ago, long time ago.
A manger warm, a bed of straw, a cradle in a cattle’s stall,
No golden throne, no royal hall, long time ago, long time ago.
A quiet hush, a midnight clear, the sheep and oxen standing near.
A father’s prayer, a mother’s tear, long time ago, long time ago.
An angel’s song, a glad refrain, from heaven’s glory Jesus came.
The Prince of Peace was born to reign, long time ago, long time ago.

Narration

“Jesus, the Son of Mary” by Sam Owens

Who is this that comes in royal splendor? Jesus, the Son of Mary.
Who is this that comes to save us? Jesus the Son of Mary.
When is he coming to set us free? He’s coming soon, He’s coming soon!
Who is coming to redeem us all? Jesus, the Son of Mary!

The Cantata continues after Communion

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends either “Lord, in your mercy,” *OR* “Hear us, O Lord,”
and we respond, “Hear our prayer.” *OR* “Your mercy is great.”

OFFERING

OFFERTORY


Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER


Let us pray. Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE


PASTOR: 
the Lord be with you,

CONG.: 
AND AL-SO_ WITH YOU

PASTOR: 
Lift up your_ hearts,

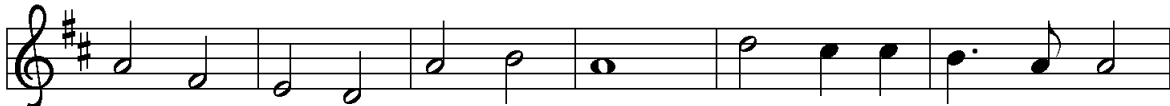
CONG.: 
WE_ LIFT THEM TO THE LORD


PASTOR: 
Let us give thanks, to the Lord_____ our_____ God.

CONG.: 
IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE HIM THANKS AND_____ PRAISE!

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,


heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

PASTOR: Let us pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith.

CONG.: CHRIST HAS DIED. CHRIST IS RIS - EN. CHRIST WILL COME A - GAIN.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

CONG.: A _____ MEN.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

We Sit

COMMUNION SONG

(Sung Twice)



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. In his love and care, nourish and sustain all those who will receive this sacrament. **Amen.**

Narration

“Christmas Hymn” (17th C)

arr. Jungst, adapt. by Deis, Eng. version by Baker

While by my sheep I watched at night, Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain: How great my joy. Praise we the Lord in heaven on high.

There shall be born, so he did say, In Bethlehem a child today.
Refrain

There shall he lie in manger mean, Who shall redeem the world from sin.
Refrain

Lord, evermore to me be nigh, Then shall my heart be filled with joy!
Refrain

Narration

“For Unto Us a Child is Born” from *“He is Born!”* by Lloyd Larson

For unto us a Child is born; For unto us a Son is given.
For unto us a Child is born, and the government shall be upon His shoulders.
He shall be called, “Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God and Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!”
And the increase of His government, and peace will have no end.
His kingdom shall last forevermore.
For unto us a Child is born; For unto us a Son is given.
For unto us a Child is born, and His kingdom shall never end.

Narration and Blessing

“Let There be Peace on Earth” by Miller/Jackson

**Congregation: Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.
Let there be peace on earth, let this be the moment now.
With ev’ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

COPYRIGHT 1955, 1983 BY JAN-LEE MUSIC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. USED BY PERMISSION.

DISMISSAL

Together we have heard God’s Word and shared in the Lord’s Supper, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week’s service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Scenes of Advent

by Wendy Roth

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #27824. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Hymns used with permission under ONE LICENSE #738836-A. All rights reserved.